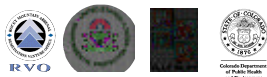


ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

This is a joint publication produced by:



Washington Group International Receives Prestigious Award from OSHA

Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) once again has been officially recognized as one of the safest places to work. Washington Group International's role in the cleanup of RMA received certification by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for their prestigious Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Demonstration Status. Washington Group is Shell's contractor at RMA. "Safe work practices are essential to Shell. Washington Group has done an exceptional job at the site and continues to maintain superior safety standards," said Roger Shakely, Denver Project Site Manager for Shell.

RMA was the first environmental cleanup project in the country to be honored by OSHA with VPP Star Status when TetraTech Foster Wheeler Inc., RMA's Program Management Contactor, was certified in 1999 and then recertified in October 2002.

OSHA's VPP recognizes employers who have successfully incorporated a culture of safety and safety processes into their workplace. Each applicant is subjected to a rigorous weeklong on-site evaluation by OSHA, which culminates in a report recommending VPP Star Demonstration Status for those companies with superior health and safety programs.

"We are extremely honored to receive the VPP Star Demonstration Status certification and proud of the effort by all our employees to get us to this level of safety excellence," said Mark Thomson, Project General Manager for Washington Group International. "The safety of our workers, visitors and neighbors is our primary focus at the Arsenal."

This extraordinary accomplishment is a tremendous milestone for Washington Group and RMA. OSHA will present Washington Group with a certificate and flag honoring the achievement early this year. ■

MILESTONES

Comments are always welcome.
Please forward to:
Public Relations Department
Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Bldg. 111
Commerce City, CO 80022

(303) 289-0136
www.rma.army.mil

Chief Public Relations
Ruth Mecham

Editor
Susan Ulrich

DPRA, Inc.,
Media Design Group

Writer
Carla Johnson

Art Director/Graphic Designer
Kathy Fisher

Photographers
Rich Keen • Josh Barchers



INSIDE

- Superfund Partial Deletion For RMA
- Neighborhood News
- Peek At Nature With New Web Cam
- Visitor Center Site Of Former Officers' Club
- Cleanup Projects Completed 2003
- Washington Group International Receives Prestigious Award From OSHA



The Refuge volunteer program is the largest in Region 6 with more than 70 volunteers contributing more than 6,500 hours per year. Volunteers lead half of the public participation programs available at the Refuge.

Visit our website:
www.rma.army.mil

RMA Eliminates Sixty Percent Of U.S.'s Chemical Weapons Production Capability

Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) marked a new beginning by successfully achieving an incredible milestone of destroying its former chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) and equipment. RMA's completion of the structure demolition project provided an impressive 60 percent of the United States' chemical weapons production capabilities. RMA is one of seven former chemical weapons production facilities to be destroyed eliminating chemical agent manufacturing structures and equipment.

With over 10 years in the making, RMA's Program Manager received certification on the official closure of the final declared facility from the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an organization with the responsibility to ensure compliance by verification inspections to declared chemical weapons sites.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use

of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction otherwise known as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) entered into force (EIF) April 29, 1997, a product of decades of international deliberations and negotiations on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. The United States became a State Party when it ratified the CWC on April 25, 1997. As of March 29, 2003, 176 countries have signed the CWC and 151 of them have ratified its terms and principles.

The U.S. ratification agreed to all terms of disclosure, inspection and destruction of chemical weapons and facilities as contained within the treaty. With four declared sites, RMA met the CWC destruction deadlines while ensuring public and environmental safety. With the majority of the production capacity of a former chemical weapons production facility for the U.S., RMA accomplished destruction activities at least two years ahead of the treaty deadline and account for approximately

continued on page three see CWC

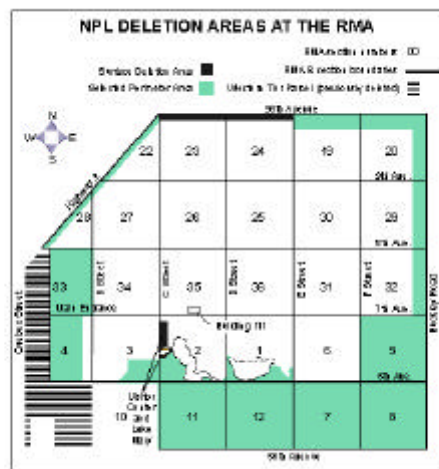


Structure 1501 is demolished as part of the Chemical Weapons Treaty Inspection.

Photo by Josh Barchers/DPRA, Inc.

Superfund Partial Deletion for RMA

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the National Priority List (NPL) partial deletion of the Selected Perimeter Area (SPA) and the Surface Deletion Area (SDA) of RMA on January 15, 2004. The NPL deletion is the last step in the process to remove areas that no longer pose a significant threat to human health or the environment from the federal Superfund program.



A total of 4,927 acres out of approximately 17,000 acres at RMA now are available for the U.S. Army to transfer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service according to the 1992 RMA National Wildlife Refuge Act.

"Establishment of the RMA National Wildlife Refuge will create a major asset for the Montbello and Commerce City communities as well as the greater Denver-metropolitan area," said EPA Assistant Regional Administrator, Max Dodson.

The deleted areas also include 100-foot-wide strips immediately inside the RMA boundary along 96th and 56th Avenues, and Highway 2 for conveyance to State or local government to improve traffic flow and access to the Denver International Airport.

The deletion of the SPA and the SDA from the NPL is the result of years of work cleaning up contaminated water as well as the on-site disposal of soil and structures. EPA announced the proposed NPL deletions July 28, 2003, and held a public meeting August 5. The final Notices of Partial Deletion were published in the Federal Register on January 15, 2004.

workshops. In addition, the program hosted 25 home safety workshops and responded to 20 home safety visit requests.

"The home visits are free, confidential and tailored to each family's concerns," Waldroop explained. "We discuss anything that may be a risk, especially to children, and provide free safety supplies and literature."

Shell Oil Company (Shell) also is dedicated to giving back to the local community. Roger Shakely, Project Manager for Shell at the Arsenal, has been a strong supporter of the Adams 14 Education Foundation for many years and became personally involved in the mini-grant program at its inception in 2000.

The Foundation's Prize Patrol recently visited schools to personally deliver more than \$20,000 to worthwhile, yet under-funded programs and projects throughout the school district.

"I get great satisfaction in seeing the looks of surprise and genuine appreciation on the teachers' faces when they receive their grant," said Shakely. "At Shell, we value the relationship we've established with the Foundation and embrace the opportunity to bring additional value to the educational programs in the schools surrounding the Arsenal."

CWC continued from page one

60 percent of the U.S.'s production capacity including a production facility that was destroyed prior to entry into force (EIF).

"With this verification complete, we (RMA) have completed another milestone that will lead us to our ultimate goal of transitioning this historical site into a nationally recognized wildlife refuge," said Charles Scharmann, RMA Program Manager for the environmental cleanup.

Peek at Nature with New Web Cam



A glimpse of Lake Mary through the web cam.

Through a joint effort, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has installed an Internet-cable camera at the Visitor Center. More commonly called a web cam, the new technology provides live wildlife viewing and scenes around Lake Mary and Lake Ladora. It can be viewed on a monitor in the Visitor Center or by computer from the comforts of home.

"We wanted to install something to give a person a glimpse of the wildlife without having to visit the site," said Supervisory Park Ranger Sherry James. A camera provides live feed to a computer in the Visitor Center and can be rotated to show birds and other wildlife at either lake.

The project has come to fruition thanks to contributions from Wild Birds Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the RMA Wildlife Society and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"People aren't able to come to the refuge as often as they'd like, but now they can see what's going on," added James. "Now wildlife viewing isn't limited to weekend visitation hours. People can view the wildlife without having to come onto the site."

The camera is expected to be connected to the Service's Web site by the end of February. To view the web cam, go to <http://rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov> and look for the webcam link.

Visitor Center Site of Former Officers' Club

When you browse the exhibits at the Visitor Center on RMA, take a minute and close your eyes. Imagine hearing the sounds of silverware clinking, wine being poured and dance music playing. These thoughts are all that remain of the former Officers' Club.

An Officers' Club is a building restricted for use by military officers and their guests for entertainment. The first RMA Officers' Club was Building 181 located just west of the old Stapleton Airport runway. The building was originally the Rose Hill School, later the Prisoner of War Administration Building and then converted into the Officers' Club.

In 1974 the Army deeded 622 acres to the City and County of Denver for the Stapleton Runway and Building 181 was torn down. The City and County of Denver constructed Building 383 that same year to serve as the new Officers' Club. The facility functioned in this manner from 1974 through 1989. The Service began using Building 383 as the Visitor Center in February 1990.

Today, you can see historical artifacts, receive cleanup and wildlife information and enjoy interactive exhibits at the Visitor Center. The current exhibit room was the restaurant and dance area when the building acted as the Officers' Club. The wooden dance floor is still under the carpet.

Come see the old Officers' Club and learn more about the environmental cleanup program and refuge-related activities on Saturdays and Sundays at the Visitor Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 303-289-0930.



The current exhibit room at the Visitor Center.



The Commerce City Health Service Center recently elected Joyce Waldroop to its Board of Directors. Waldroop is the human resources/community investment manager for RMA contractor Tetra Tech Foster Wheeler (TTFW). The Commerce City Health Service Center Board directs the program, which provides health-care services to children of families who otherwise couldn't afford the health care.

TTFW also sponsors the "Keep Me Safe" program, supplying car seats and check ups to ensure a correct fit. Staff and volunteers provide education information for parents on how to install car seats and properly fit children.

"We started the car seat program about five years ago and it's been a tremendous success," said Waldroop. From September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2003, staff and volunteers distributed 115 new car seats, checked the fit on 1,626 others and held 19 child passenger safety

M I L E S T O N E S

2003 IN REVIEW

All photos by DPRJA, Inc./Josh Barchers

Cleanup Projects Completed

2003 marked the completion of several significant projects at RMA, including the following:

Basin F/Exterior Part I

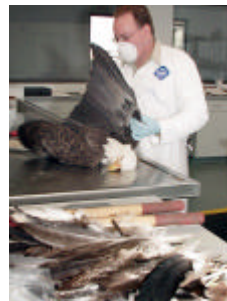
The Basin F Exterior Soils Remediation project wrapped up in January 2003 after nearly one year of work. This project excavated contaminated soils adjacent to the former Basin F. Higher-level contaminated soil was removed and taken to the on-site Hazardous Waste Landfill (HWL). Dirt with low-level contamination that may have a potential adverse effect on wildlife was taken to the Basin A consolidation area. Soils removed had been affected predominantly through windblown contamination from Basin F operations during the 1960s.

Burial Trenches Part II

This effort was the last of the burial trenches work. The project involved removing material from former burial trenches and placing the trash and non-explosive munitions debris in the HWL or the Basin A consolidation area. The project was completed in March.

National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository Construction

Construction on the 8,800-square foot addition to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's wildlife repository wrapped up in October. The addition brings the total size of the repository to over 22,000 square feet. The extra space will help the national facility, which is responsible for storing and disposing of



The feathers of an eagle are preserved for the Native American eagle feather program.



A new addition to the repository added 8,800-square feet.

confiscated wildlife property, as well as shipping dead eagles/parts and feathers to Native Americans. Group tours of 20 or more will be available by appointment. Anyone interested can schedule a tour by calling 303-287-2110.

North Plants Structures Demolition

In June, work outlined in the original design documents wrapped up on the demolition of structures and removal of contaminated soils and chemical sewers from North Plants. Altogether, the project has tallied the demolition of 59 buildings. Efforts involved destroying buildings and their foundations, removing contaminated soil and sewers, destroying equipment once used to manufacture chemical weapons, bringing in clean fill soil, and site grading to return 150-acres to its original character. During the excavation, diesel contamination caused by a leaking North Plants storage tank was discovered. An investigation is underway and the contamination will be addressed under the upcoming North Plants Soil Project.



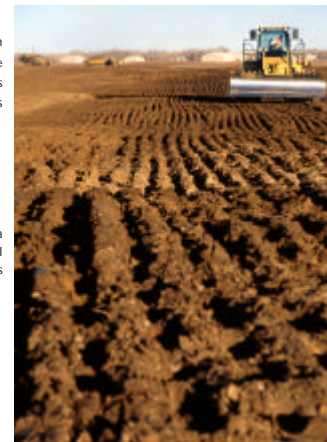
A view of building 1501 in the North Plants area after fifty-percent of demolition.

Secondary Basins Soils Remediation Part II

Once used for the evaporation of liquid wastes, excavation of contaminated soil was completed in February 2003. The project removed soils with low-level contamination that may potentially have an adverse effect on wildlife to the Basin A consolidation area. Once completed, the site was graded to remove man-made features and one foot of topsoil was added to return the terrain to its pre-RMA contour.

South Plants Central Processing and Balance of Areas Phase II Soil Remediation

With the completion of this work, all of the contaminated soil work related to the South Plants area is complete. Most of this soil was contaminated during the production of agricultural chemicals from 1952 through 1982. Remaining work, which will begin in the spring of 2004, includes grading and cover construction.



Soil remediation takes place in the South Plants area.



Excavation of contaminated soils in the Secondary Basins.

Community Involvement

RMA participated in numerous events throughout 2003 such as Commerce City picnics and Stapleton's Fall Festival. In addition, wildlife education programs, presentations about the site's clean-up progress and hosting an educational career day at Montbello High School provided RMA staff with opportunities to stay in touch with the community.

The Service hosted two on-site public events, in addition to its regular weekend programs. The Centennial Celebration, held in March 2003, recognized 100 years of conservation. And, Refuge Week, which took place in October, was part of a national celebration hosted by refuges across the country.

Along with outreach efforts, RMA continues to attend and host citizen advisory board meetings on numerous topics, such as clean-up designs, air and odor monitoring, land removal from the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List, site history and transition to a national wildlife refuge.

Lastly, approximately 50 confidential one-on-one community interviews were conducted with residents, elected officials, business leaders, school principals and Service volunteers to gain a better understanding of community perceptions and concerns, hear community thoughts about the cleanup and the site's transition to a national wildlife refuge, and preferences for receiving RMA information. The interviews were incorporated into RMA's Community Involvement Plan. The site will use this plan as a guide to conduct community involvement activities as the site's cleanup progresses.